

REMARKS

This is intended as a supplemental response to the Final Office Action dated January 4, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 4, 2007. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for at least the reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-18, 28-33, and 35-46 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 28-31, 37, 42, and 43 are rejected. Claims 9-18 are indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Claims 6-8, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38-41, and 44-46 are objected to by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims and of the objected to claims is requested for the reasons presented below.

Applicants propose canceling claims 28-31, 37, and 42-43 and rewriting claims 32, 33, 35, 38-41, and 44-46 in independent form. Applicants previously proposed canceling claims 28-31 and rewriting claims 32, 33, and 35 in independent form in the Response to the Final Office Action dated January 4, 2007, that was filed on February 15, 2007. Applicants note that the Examiner indicated in the Advisory Action mailed on February 28, 2007, that the previously proposed amendments would be entered upon appeal. Applicants respectfully request entry of the newly proposed amendments.

Claims 28, 29, and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Friedmann, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,103,305). Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 28, 29, and 37 is rendered moot as Applicants propose canceling claims 28, 29, and 37.

Claims 1, 2, and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Friedmann, et al.* in view of *Chou, et al.* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0055012). Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Friedmann, et al.* in view of *Chou, et al.* as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of *Hayashi, et al.* Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-5 is moot as the Examiner indicated in the Advisory Action mailed on February 28, 2007, that Applicants' arguments with respect to the rejections against claims 1-5 were persuasive and that the rejections would be withdrawn.

Claims 30, 31, 42, and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Friedmann, et al.*, in view of *Hayashi, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,599,590). Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 30, 31, 42, and 43 is moot as Applicants propose canceling claims 30, 31, 42, and 43.

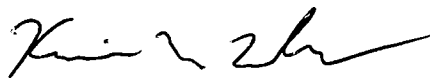
Claims 6-8, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38-41, and 44-46 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to claims 6-8, 32, 33, 35, and 36 is moot as the Examiner indicated in the Advisory Action mailed on February 28, 2007, that claims 6-8, 32, 33, 35, and 36 are allowable.

Applicants have rewritten claims 38-41 and 44-46 in independent form. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claims 38-41 and 44-46.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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